Appendix BPreliminary CHART Assessment for the Northern California (NC) O. mykiss ESU

ESU Description

The NC O. mykiss ESU was listed as a threatened species in 2000 (65 FR 36074; June 7, 2000). The ESU includes all naturally spawned populations of O. mykiss in coastal river basins from Redwood Creek south to and including the Gualala River. Major watersheds occupied by naturally spawning fish in this ESU include Redwood Creek, Mad River, Eel River, several smaller coastal watersheds on coast southward to the Gualala River. O. mykiss within this ESU include both winter and summer run types, including what is presently considered to be the southernmost population of summer O. mykiss in the Middle Fork Eel River (NMFS 1996). The half-pounder life history also occur in the ESU, specifically in the Mad and Eel Rivers. Based on an updated status review (NMFS 2003a) and an assessment of hatchery populations located within the range of the ESU (NMFS 2003b), NMFS recently proposed that the ESU remain listed as a threatened species and that resident O. mykiss co-occurring with anadromous populations below impassible barriers (both natural and man-made) as well as two artificial propagation programs (Yager Creek Hatchery and North Fork Gualala River Hatchery) also be included in the ESU (69 FR 33102; June 14, 2004). A Technical Recovery Team has been formed and is in the process of identifying the historical and extant independent population structure of this ESU and associated population viability.

CHART Area Assessments

The CHART assessment for the NC *O. mykiss* ESU addressed 7 CALWATER Hydrologic Units (HUs) or subbasins containing 50 occupied Hydrologic Subareas (HSAs) (Figures B1 and B2). The HSAs were chosen as freshwater critical habitat units because they present a convenient and systematic way to organize the CHART's watershed assessments for this ESU. In addition to the 50 occupied HSA watershed units, conservation assessments were also made for Humboldt Bay and the Eel River estuary. Information presented below for individual HUs (size, counties, total stream miles, occupied stream miles, and habitat use) were generated from GIS data sets compiled by NMFS Southwest Region (NMFS 2004a).

Unit 1. Redwood Creek Subbasin (HU 1107)

The Redwood Creek HU is located in the northern portion of the ESU and includes the Redwood Creek drainage. The HU encompasses approximately 294 mi² and occurs completely within Humboldt County. The HU contains 3 HSAs, all of which are occupied, and 343 stream miles (at 1:100,000 hydrography). Fish distribution and habitat use data compiled by NMFS biologists identify approximately 138 miles of occupied riverine and/or estuarine habitat in the 3 occupied HSAs (NMFS 2004a). The CHART concluded that these occupied HSAs contained one or more PCEs (i.e. spawning, rearing, or migratory habitat) and identified several management activities that may affect the PCEs. Table B1 summarizes the total miles of occupied riverine/estuarine reaches for each HSA watershed that contain spawning/rearing, rearing/migration, or migration PCEs, as well as management activities that may affect the PCEs in each HSA. Map B1 depicts the specific areas in this HU that are occupied by the ESU and under consideration for the critical habitat designation. The CHART did not identify any unoccupied habitat in this subbasin that may be essential for the conservation of the ESU.

Unit 2. Trinidad Subbasin (HU 1108)

The Trinidad HU is located in the northern portion of the ESU and includes Big Lagoon and Little River. The HU encompasses approximately 131 mi² and occurs completely within Humboldt County. This HU contains 2 HSAs, both of which are occupied, and 161 stream miles (at 1:100,000 hydrography). Fish distribution and habitat use data compiled by NMFS biologists identify approximately 66 miles of occupied riverine/estuarine habitat in the occupied HSAs (NMFS 2004a). The CHART concluded that these occupied areas contained one or more PCEs (i.e. spawning, rearing, or migratory habitat) and identified management activities that may affect the PCEs. Table B1 summarizes the total miles of occupied riverine and estuarine reaches identified for each HSA watershed that contain spawning/rearing, rearing/migration, or migration PCEs, as well as management activities that may affect the PCEs in each HSA. Map B1 depicts the specific areas in this HU that are occupied by the ESU and under consideration for the critical habitat designation. The CHART did not identify any unoccupied habitat in this subbasin that may be essential for the conservation of the ESU.

Unit 3. Mad River Subbasin (HU1109)

The Mad River HU is located in the northern portion of the ESU and includes the Mad River drainage. The HU encompasses approximately 499 mi² and occurs in portions of Humboldt and Trinity Counties. This HU contains 4 HSAs, all of which are occupied,

and a total of 661 miles of streams (at 1:100,000 hydrography). Fish distribution and habitat use data compiled by NMFS biologists identify approximately 169 miles of occupied riverine/estuarine habitat in the 4 occupied HSAs (NMFS 2004a). The CHART concluded that these occupied areas contained one or more PCEs (i.e. spawning, rearing, or migratory habitat) and identified management activities that may affect the PCEs. Table B1 summarizes the total miles of occupied riverine and estuarine reaches identified for each HSA watershed that contain spawning/rearing, rearing/migration, or migration PCEs, as well as management activities that may affect the PCEs in each HSA. Map B3 depicts the specific areas in this HU that are occupied by the ESU and under consideration for the critical habitat designation. The CHART did not identify any unoccupied habitat in this subbasin that may be essential for the conservation of the ESU.

Unit 4. Eureka Plain Subbasin (HU 1110)

The Eureka Plain HU is located in the vicinity of Eureka, includes Humboldt Bay. The HU encompasses approximately 224 mi² and occurs completely within Humboldt County. This HU contains a single HSA which is occupied and a total of 269 miles of streams (at 1:100,000 hydrography). Fish distribution and habitat use data compiled by NMFS biologists identify approximately 122 miles of occupied riverine/estuarine habitat in the occupied HSA (NMFS 2004a). The CHART concluded that these occupied areas contained one or more PCEs (i.e. spawning, rearing, or migratory habitat) for this ESU and identified management activities that may affect the PCEs. The CHART also evaluated Humboldt Bay into which most of the freshwater streams in this subbasin drain as a separate unit. Humboldt Bay contains approximately 25 mi² of estuarine habitat which the CHART found contained PCEs for rearing and migration and was of high conservation value. Table B1 summarizes the total miles of occupied riverine and estuarine habitat for the HSA that contain spawning/rearing, rearing/migration, or migration PCEs, as well as management activities that may affect the PCEs in each HSA. Map B4 depicts the specific areas in this HU that are occupied by the ESU and under consideration for the critical habitat designation. The CHART did not identify any unoccupied habitat in this subbasin that may be essential for the conservation of the ESU.

Unit 5. Eel River Subbasin (HU 1111)

The Eel River HU is located in north central portion of the ESU and includes the Eel River and Van Duzen River drainages. The HU encompasses approximately 3,682 mi² and occurs in portions of several counties including: Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino, Lake, Glenn, Colusa, and Tehama. This HU, which is the largest in this ESU, contains

19 occupied HSAs and 5,194 miles of streams (at 1:100,000 hydrography). Fish distribution and habitat use data compiled by NMFS biologists identify approximately 1,269 miles of occupied riverine/estuarine habitat in the occupied HSAs (NMFS 2004a). The CHART concluded that these occupied areas contained one or more PCEs (i.e. spawning, rearing, or migratory habitat) for this ESU and identified management activities that may affect the PCEs. Table B1 summarizes the total miles of occupied riverine and estuarine reaches identified for each HSA watershed that contain spawning/rearing, rearing/migration, or migration PCEs, as well as management activities that may affect the PCEs in each HSA. Map B5 depicts the specific areas in this HU that are occupied by the ESU and under consideration for the critical habitat designation. The CHART did not identify any unoccupied habitat in this subbasin that may be essential for the conservation of the ESU.

Unit 6. Cape Mendocino Subbasin (HU 1112)

The Cape Mendocino HU is located in the central portion of the ESU and includes the Bear River and Mattole River drainages. This HU encompasses approximately 499 mi² and occurs almost entirely in Humboldt County. This HU contains 3 HSAs, all of which are occupied, and 654 miles of streams (at 1:100,000 hydrography). Fish distribution and habitat use data compiled by NMFS biologists identify approximately 342 miles of occupied riverine/estuarine habitat in the 3 occupied HSAs (NMFS 2004a). The CHART concluded that these occupied areas contained one or more PCEs (i.e. spawning, rearing, or migratory habitat) for this ESU and identified management activities that may affect the PCEs. Table B1 summarizes the total miles of occupied riverine and/or estuarine reaches identified for each HSA watershed that contain spawning/rearing, rearing/migration, or migration PCEs, as well as management activities that may affect the PCEs in each HSA. Map B6 depicts the specific areas in this HU that are occupied by the ESU and under consideration for the critical habitat designation. The CHART did not identify any unoccupied habitat in this subbasin that may be essential for the conservation of the ESU.

Unit 7. Mendocino Coast Subbasin (HU 1112)

The Mendocino HU is located in the southern portion of the ESU within Mendocino and Sonoma Counties and includes several smaller streams including the Ten Mile, Noyo, Albion, Navarro, and Garcia Rivers. This HU which encompasses approximately 1,598 mi² contains 18 HSAs, all of which are occupied, and 2,103 miles of streams (at 1:100,000 hydrography). Fish distribution and habitat use data compiled by NMFS

biologists identify approximately 1,022 miles of occupied riverine/estuarine habitat in the 18 HSAs (NMFS 2004a). The CHART concluded that these occupied areas contained one or more PCEs (i.e. spawning, rearing, or migratory habitat) for this ESU and identified management activities that may affect the PCEs. Table B1 summarizes the total miles of occupied riverine and estuarine reaches identified for each HSA watershed that contain spawning/rearing, rearing/migration, or migration PCEs, as well as management activities that may affect the PCEs in each HSA. Map B7 depicts the specific areas in this HU that are occupied by the ESU and under consideration for the critical habitat designation. The CHART did not identify any unoccupied habitat in this subbasin that may be essential for the conservation of the ESU.

CHART Preliminary Conservation Value Rating

Freshwater/Estuarine Areas

After reviewing the best available scientific data regarding the distribution and habitat use of the NC O. mykiss ESU, the CHART concluded that most of the occupied HSAs were of high or medium conservation value to the ESU. Of the 50 occupied HSAs that were evaluated, 27 were rated as having high conservation value, 14 were rated as having medium conservation value, and 9 were rated as having low conservation value. In addition, both Humboldt Bay and the Eel River estuary were rated as having a high conservation value. Table B2 summarizes the CHARTs PCE/watershed scores and preliminary conservation value ratings (i.e. low, medium or high) for each HSA. Figure B8 depicts the overall spatial distribution of conservation scores for occupied HSAs within the ESU.

Marine Areas

NMFS determined that marine areas did not warrant consideration as critical habitat for this ESU.

References and Sources of Information

NMFS 1996. Status Review of West Coast Steelhead. Biological Review Team; Northwest Fisheries Science Center and Southwest Fisheries Science Center.

NMFS 2003a. Updated Status of Federally Listed ESUs of West Coast Salmon and Steelhead. West Coast Salmon Biological Review Team; Northwest Fisheries Science Center and Southwest Fisheries Science Center. July 2003.

NMFS 2003b. Hatchery Broodstock Summaries and Assessments for Chum, Coho, and Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Stocks within ESUs listed under the ESA. Salmon and

Steelhead Hatchery Assessment Group/NOAA Fisheries; Northwest Fisheries Science Center and Southwest Fisheries Science Center

NMFS 2004. GIS and Associated Data Related to Critical Habitat Designations for Seven ESUs of Salmon and *O. mykiss* in California. Compiled by NMFS Southwest Region.

Federal Register Notices

 $65~\mathrm{FR}~36974$ - Northern California Steelhead Listing Determination

69 FR 33102 - Proposed Listing Determinations for 27 West Coast Salmon and Steelhead ESUs

Table B1. Summary of Occupied Subbasins/Watersheds. PCE's, and Management Activities Affecting PCE's for the Northern California Steelhead ESU

Map Code	Basin	Watershed	Calwater Unit	Spawning/Rearing PCEs (ml)**	Rearing/Migration PCEs (mi)**	Presence/Migration Only PCEs (mi)**	Management Activities***
	Redwood Creek	Orick	110710	62	62	59	FR, FC, GM, WI, GR
	Redwood Creek	Bacaver	110720	44	44	44	FR
	Redwood Creek	Lake Prairie	110730	27	27	27	FR, WI
	Trinidad	Big Lagoon	110810	32	32	30	FR, NW
	Trinidad	Little River	110820	21	21	21	FR, AG, GR, WI, NW, FC
	Mad River	Blue Lake	110910	35	35	33	FR, RB, AG, SC
	Mad River	North Fork Mad River	110920	16	16	16	FR, AG, GR, WI
	Mad River	Butler Valley	110930	75	75	74	FR, AG, GR, SC
,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	Mad River	Ruth	110940	9	9	9	FR, NH
	Eureka Plain	Eureka Plain	111000	116	116	116	UR, FC, RB, TR
	Eel River	Ferndale	111111	45	45	45	
	Eel River	Scotia	111112	41	41	41	AG, FC, GM
	Eel River	Larabee Creek	111113	43	44	44	GM, FR, ES
	Est River	Hydesville	111121	29	29	27	AG, FR, WI
********		Bridgeville	111122	77	77	70	FR, GM, ES, WI
	Eel River	Yager Creek	111123	38	38	38	FR, ES
	Eel River	Weolt	111131	70	70	70	FR, AG, GR, ES
	Eel River	Benbow	111132	215	215	214	FR, ES, WI
	Eel River	Laytonville	111133	***************************************			FR, UR, ES, WI
	Eel River		111141	79	79	79	FR, UR, ES, NW
	Eel River	Sequola		57	57	57	FR, UR, NH
	Eel River	Spy Rock	111142	85	85	85	AG, FR, ES, NH
	Eel River	North Fork Eel River	111150	79	79	74	AG, GR, WI, ES, PO
	Eel River	Outlet Creek	111161	76	77	74	UR, FR, WI, NW
	Eul River	Tomki Creek	111162	87	87	85	FR, WI, NW
	Eel River	Lake Pillsbury	111163	25	25	25	ES, NH, NW
	Bel River	Eden Valley	111171	34	53	53	FR, GR, WI
	Eel River	Round Valley	111172	32	34	30	AG, FR, WI
	Ect River	Black Butte River	111173	31	31	31	FR, GR, WI
	Eel River	Wilderness	111174	30	30	30	FR, PO
	Cape Mendocino	Oil Creek	111210	13	13	12	GR, FR
	Cape Mendocino	Capetown	111220	68	68	67	AG, GR, FR, WI
	Cape Mendocino	Mattole River	111230	260	260	254	FR, AG, GR, WI
	Mundocino Coast	Usal Creek	111311	24	24	23	FR, RB
	Mendocino Coast	Wages Creek	111312	37	37	33	FR, RB, NW
	Mendocino Coust	Ten Mile Creek	111313	100	92	92	
	Mendocino Coast	Noyo River	111320	116	117	112	FR, GR, PO
	Mendocino Coast	Blg River	111330	150	159	150	FR, UR, NW
	Mendocino Coast	Albion River	111340	159 56	56	53	FR, PO, WL
	Mendocino Coast	Navarro River	111350	56 177	178	173	FR, UR, NW
	Mendocino Coast	Greenwood Creek	111361		5	5	FR, AG, WI
	Mendocino Coast	Elk Creek	111362	5	7	7	FR
		Alder Creek	111363	7	7	7	FR
	Mendocino Coast	Brush Creek	111364		13	13	FR, GR
	Mendocino Coasi	Garcia River	111370	13	74	72	FR, AG
	Mendocino Coast	North Fork Gualala River	111381	74			FR, AG, WI
	Mendocino Coast			32	32	25	FR, RB, NW
	Mendocino Coast	Rockpile Creek	111382	10	10	10	FR, RB
	Mendocino Coast	Buckeye Creek	111383	26	26	26	FR, AG
	Mendocino Coast	Wheatfield Fork	111384	71	71	71	FR, AG
	Mendocino Coast	Gualala	111385	67	67	61	GM, GR, RB
	Mendovino Coast	Russian Gulch	111390	4	4	4	GR

*Total Stream Miles calculated from blueline streams represented on 1:100,000 USGS Topographic Maps

**Overlap of stream miles may occur betweeen the three habitat types.

**Management Activities Codes: AG - Agriculture CM - Ohannel Modification SE - Exoto! Trussive Species FC - Flood Control Channel FR - Forestly GM - Sand and Gravel Mining GR - Grazing DI - Hydroelectric Darn NH - Non-hydro Darn

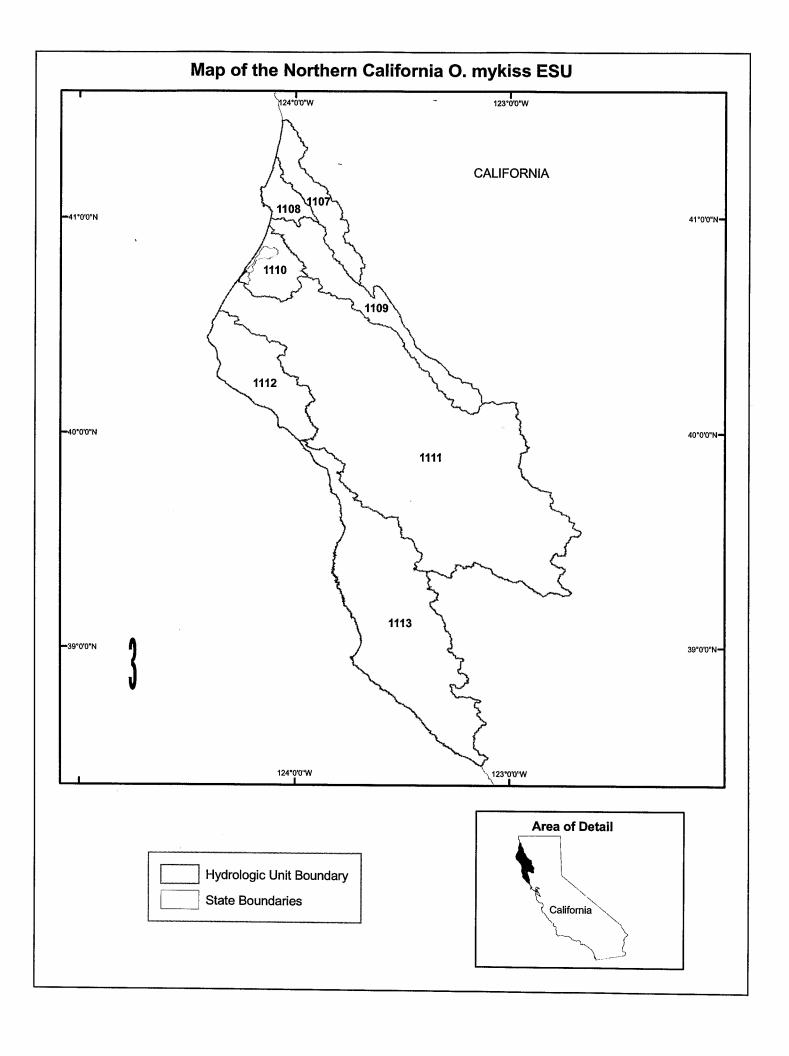
NW - Non-egriculture Withdrawis / Impoundments PO - Poaching BB - Road Building / Maintenance SP Septic System Faiture / Containation TR - River, Estuary / Coean Traffic UR - Urbanization WI - Agriculture Withdrawis / Impoundments WI. - Wetland Loss / Removal

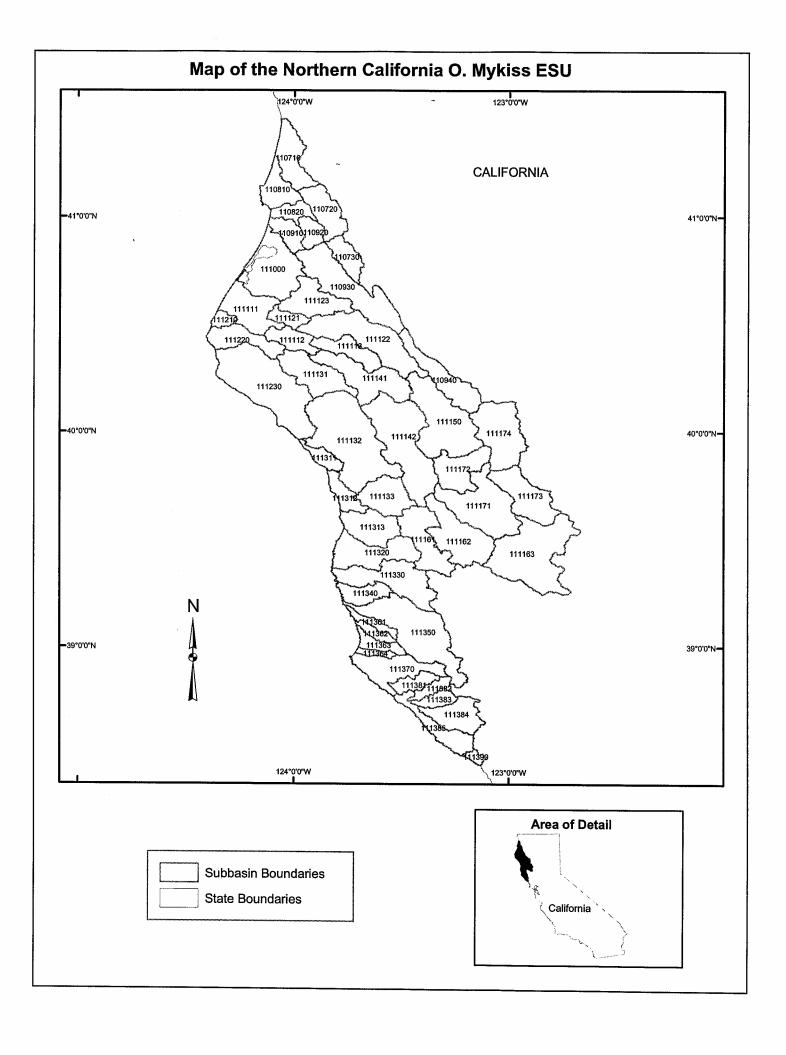
Table B2. Summary of Preliminary Scores and Overall Rankings of Conservation Values for Critical Habitat for HSA watersheds occupied by the Northern California Steelhead ESU

Map Code	Basin	Watershed	Calwater Unit	Total Score (0- 18)	Comments / Other Considerations	Preliminary Conservation Value
	Redwood Creek	Orick	110710 ~	13		High
	Redwood Creek	Baeaver	110720	13		High
	Redwood Creek	Lake Prairie	110730	12		Medium
	Trinidad	Big Lagoon	110810	10		Low
	Trinidad	Little River	110820	13		High
	Mad River	Blue Lake	110910	13		High
	Mad River	North Fork Mad River	110920	14		High
	Mad River	Butler Valley	110930	12		High
	Mad River	Ruth	110940	10		Low
	Eureka Plain	Eureka Plain	111000	14		High
	Eel River	Ferndale	111111	11		Medium
,,.,.,,,,,,,,,	Eel River	Scotia	111112	12		Medium
	Eel River	Larabee Creek	111113	14		High
	Eel River	Hydesville	111121	13		High
	Eel River	Bridgeville	111122	12		Medium
	Eel River	Yager Creek	111123	11		Medium
	Eel River	Weott	111131	13		High
***************************************	Eel River	Benbow	111132	14		High
***************************************	Eel River	Laytonville	111133	14		High
	Eel River	Sequoia	111141	12		Medium
	Eel River	Spy Rock	111142	11		Medium
	Eel River	North Fork Eel River	111150	11		Medium
	Eel River	Outlet Creek	111161	13		High
	Eel River	Tomki Creek	111162	13		High
	Eel River	Lake Pillsbury	111163	12		Medium
	Eel River	Eden Valley	111171	12		High
	Eel River	Round Valley	111172	11		Medium
	Eel River	Black Butte River	111173	12		High
	Eel River	Wilderness	111174	14		High
	Cape Mendocino	Oil Creek	111210	10		Low
	Cape Mendocino	Capetown	111220	10		Low
	Cape Mendocino	Mattole River	111230	14		High
	Mendocino Coast	Usal Creek	111311	11		Medium
	Mendocino Coast	Wages Creek	111312	11		Medium
	Mendocino Coast	Ten Mile Creek	111313	13		High
	Mendocino Coast	Noyo River	111320	13		High
	Mendocino Coast	Big River	111330	13		High
	Mendocino Coast	Albion River	111340	12		Medium

Mendocino Coast	Navarro River	111350	14 -	High
Mendocino Coast	Greenwood Creek	111361	10	Low
Mendocino Coast	Elk Creek	111362	10	Medium
Mendocino Coast	Alder Creek	111363	9	Low
Mendocino Coast	Brush Creek	111364	10	Low
Mendocino Coast	Garcia River	111370	13	High
Mendocino Coast	North Fork Gualala River	111381	13	High
Mendocino Coast	Rockpile Creek	111382	10	Low
Mendocino Coast	Buckeye Creek	111383	12	High
Mendocino Coast	Wheatfield Fork	111384	13	High
Mendocino Coast	Gualala	111385	13	High
Mendocino Coast	Russian Gulch	111390	7	Low
Outside ESU	Lake Pillsbury	111163		High

Figures B1 and B2: CALWATER Hydrologic Units and Hydrologic Subareas within the Range of the NC *O. mykiss* ESU.





Maps B1 through B7: Northern California O. mykiss ESU - Areas (Units) Under Consideration for Critical Habitat Designation

B1 - Unit 1107 (Redwood Creek)

B2 - Unit 1108 (Trinidad)

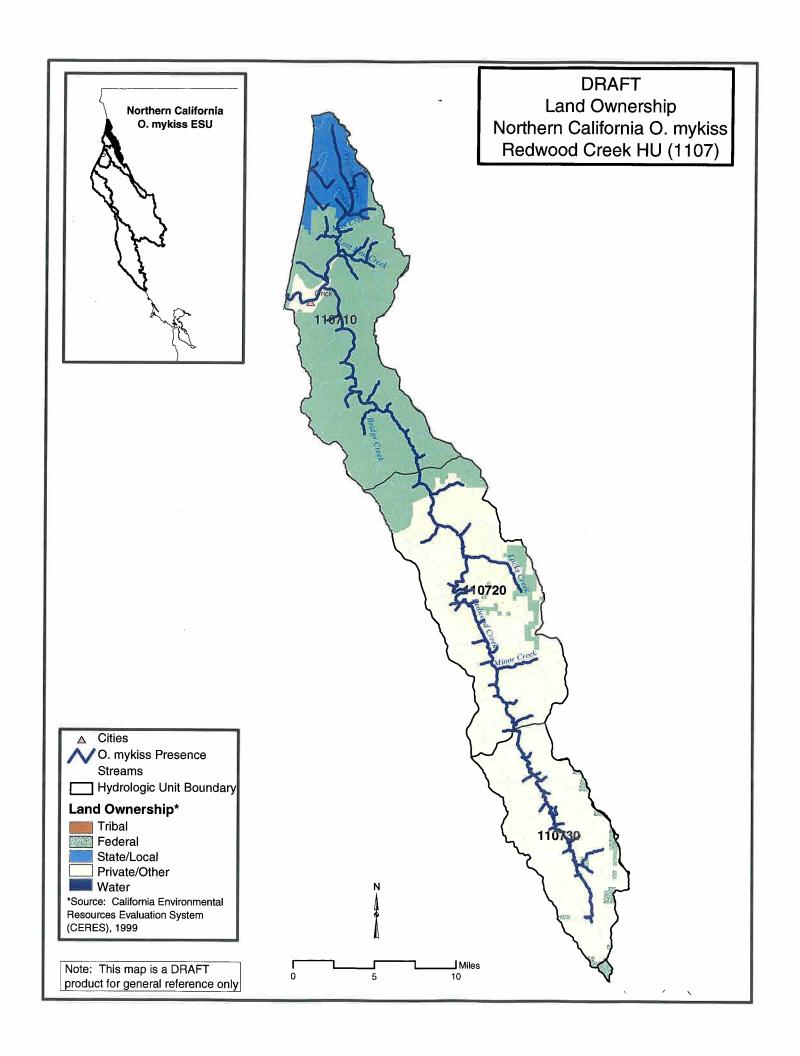
B3 - Unit 1109 (Mad River)

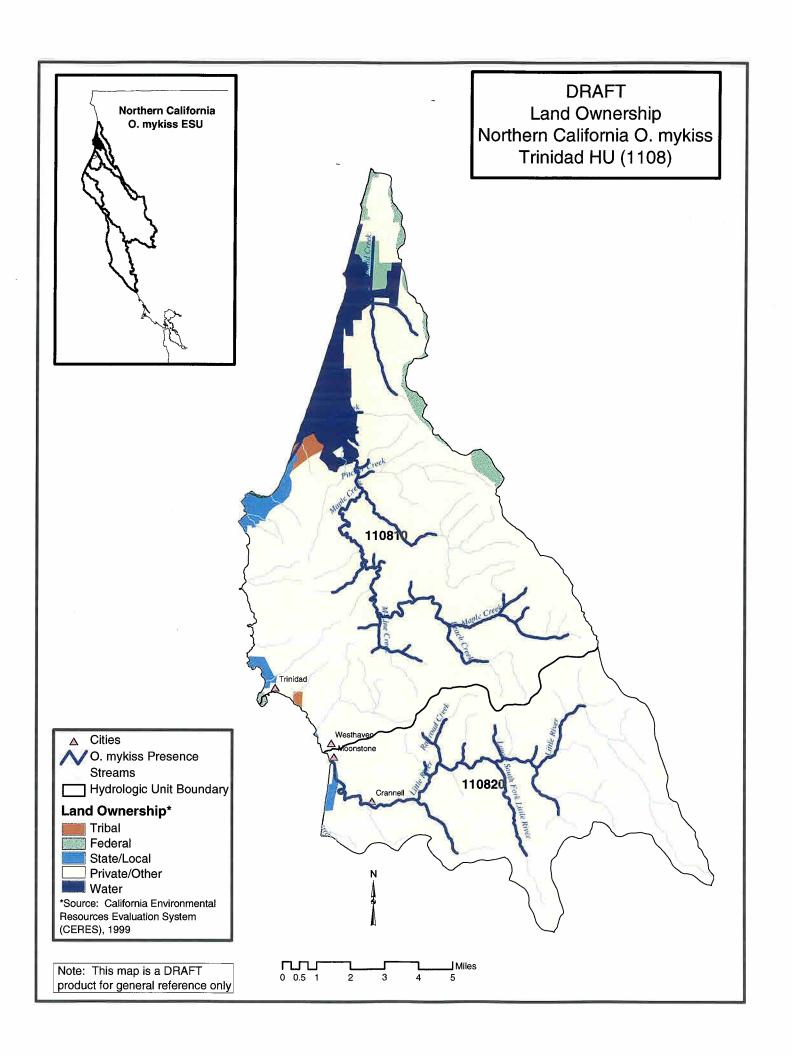
B4 - Unit 1110 (Eureka Plain)

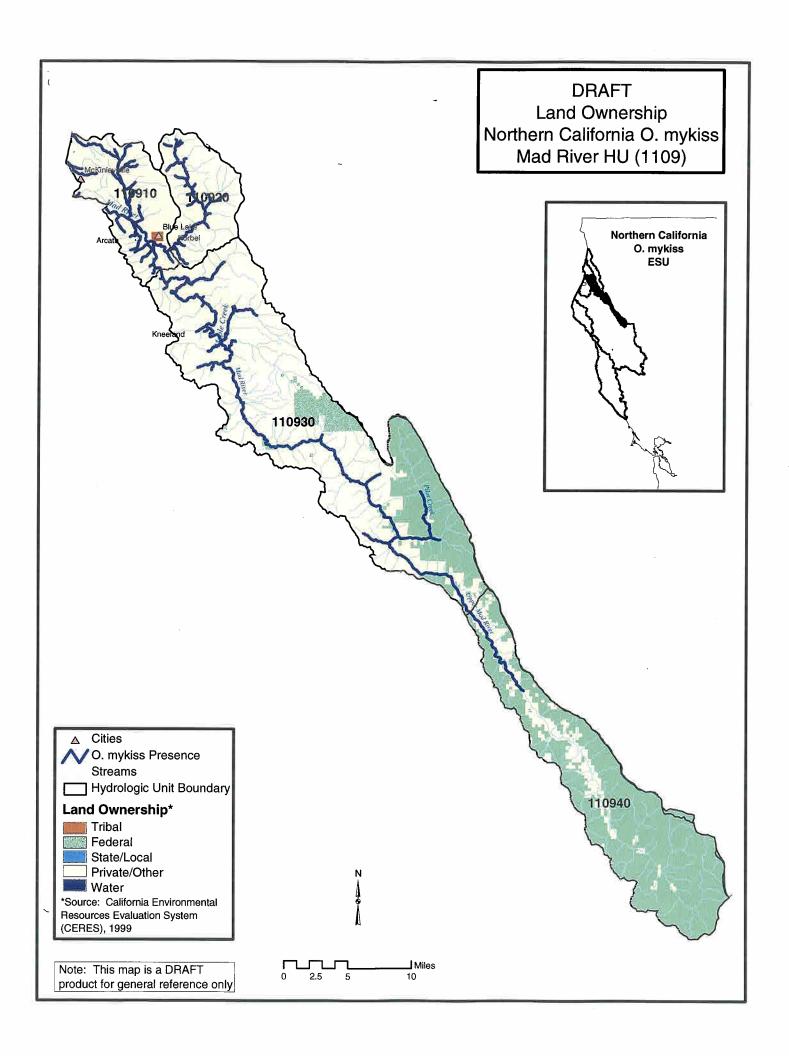
B5 - Unit 1111 (Eel River)

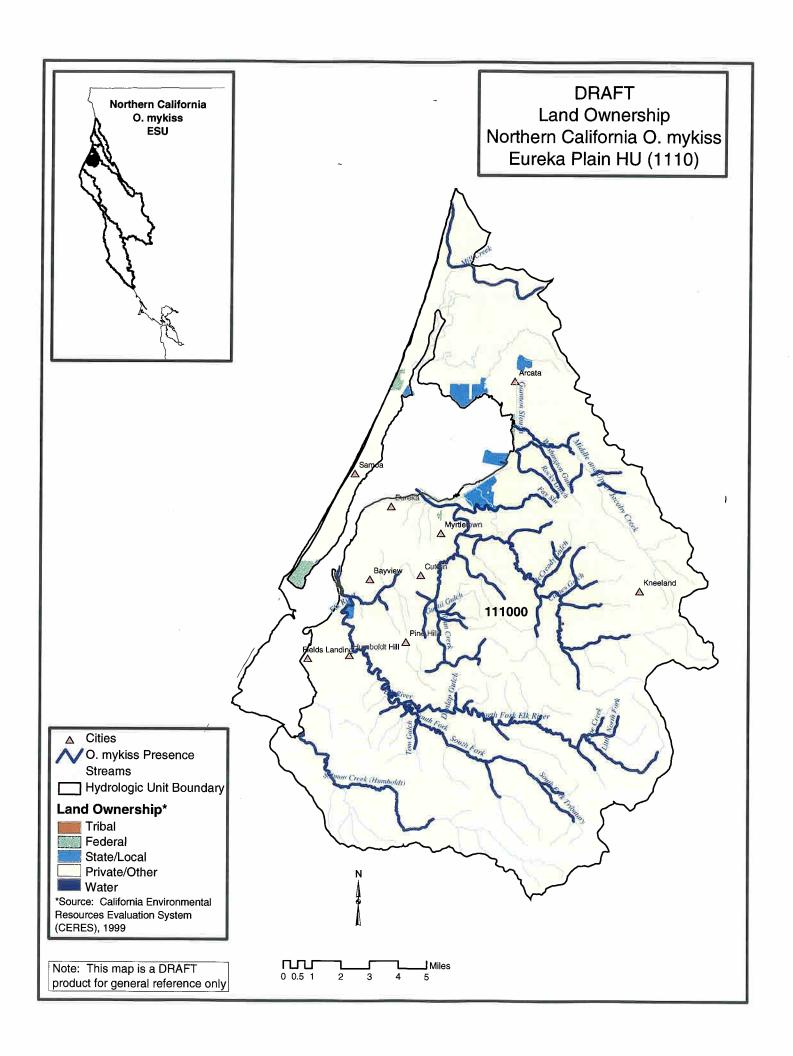
B6 - Unit 1112 (Cape Mendocino)

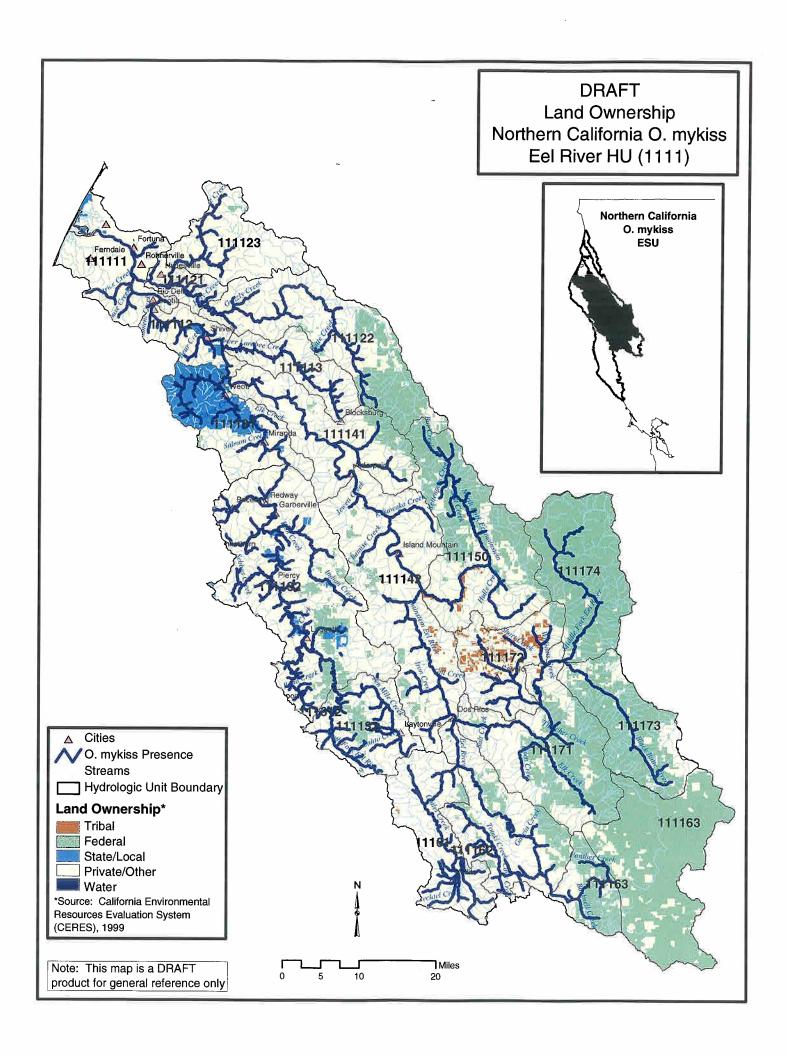
B7 - Unit 1113 (Mendocino Coast)

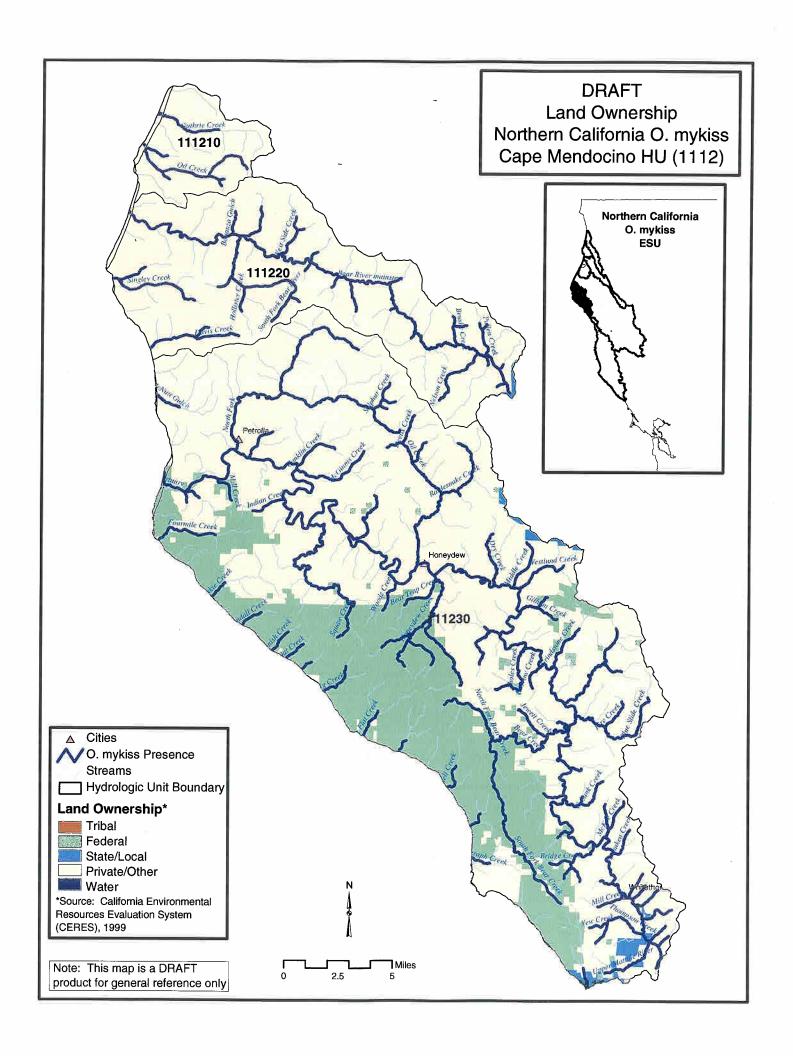


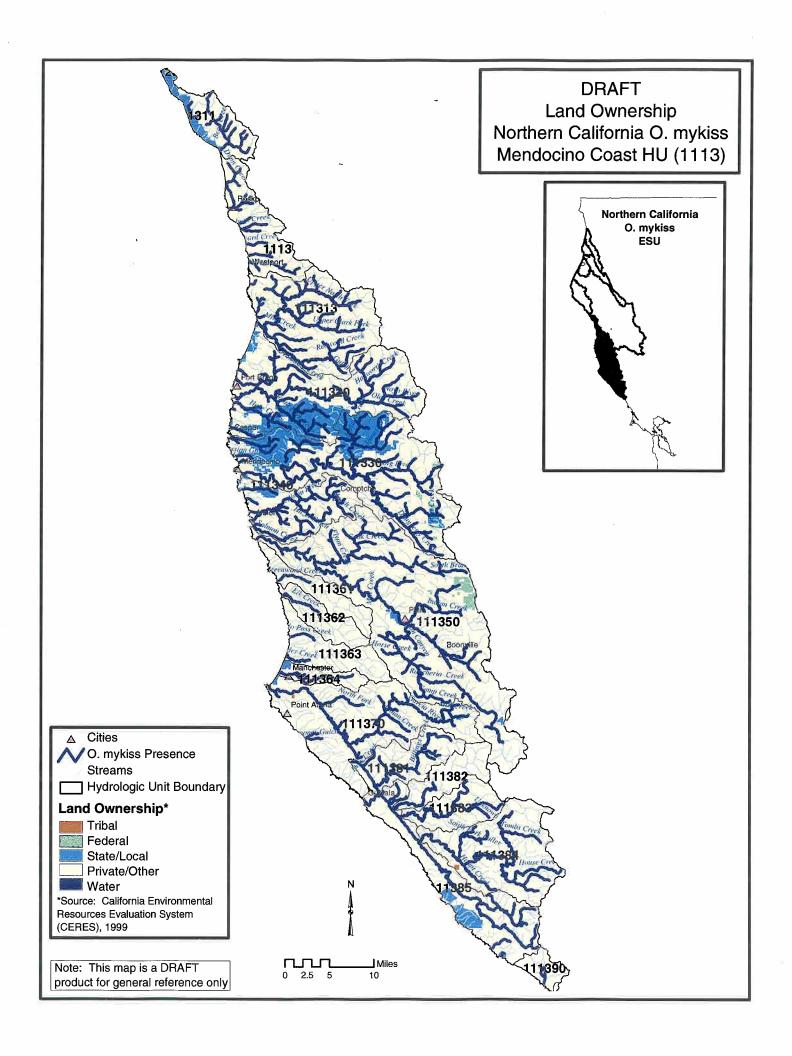












Map B8. Preliminary CHART Ratings of Conservation Value for CALWATER HSA Watersheds occupied by the Northern California O. mykiss ESU

